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Winter 2016

# SJSU ERFA News, Winter 2016

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU  
**ERFA**  
**News**

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

*Remembrance of Things Past*

Lonna Smith shares her youthful experience when she met a well-known celebrity at LBJ's rally in Pittsburgh, Pa. Page 4.

University News and Academic Senate Report

## *A Bright Light at the End of the Tunnel*

**By Peter Buzanski**  
(Senate Representative)

The Fall 2016 semester has been plagued with numerous ugly incidents, including hate crimes with racial and sexual overtones. Just recently, a Muslim-American female was allegedly attacked in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street garage when her assailant tried to choke her with her hijab. In this instance, the attack is not considered a hate crime because the assailant did not utter any words. In Hugh Gilles Hall, anti-Semitic messages were posted with Nazi symbols and in the Engineering Building a South Asian student was verbally abused while studying. Finally, incidents of sexual aggression have also taken place. What makes these and similar crimes different from earlier ones is that our new president, Mary Papazian, has made it her business to deal with these problems immediately and decisively. In one case, unlike on previous occasions, she cut short her attendance at the Chancellor's Office and flew back to campus to take immediate action. We also have a new Diversity Officer and a Vice President for Student Affairs, both with investigative staffs, and the entire campus has been instructed on how and when to respond to issues like these. Although this may not prevent all future incidents, the rapid response to such behavior helps to change attitudes and provide a healing effect.

On the day following the recent national presidential election, Papazian again emerged to calm students who were opposed to the winning candidate. She provided a link on the university's website pointing to President Obama's peaceful message that morning,

adding her own remarks of a healing nature. She called for "a guided campus conversation," which she named "Together We'll Rise: A Community Dialogue Moving Us Forward from the Election." The event took place in front of the

(Continued on Page 2)

### **The Fall Luncheon . . .**



Photo by Bill McCraw

Attending the Fall Luncheon were Mengxiong Liu, JoBell Whitlatch and Susana Liu.

## *calendar*

Friday, December 9, 2016

### **Holiday Celebration**

Second Floor, MLK, Jr. Library  
Rooms. 225-229

Friday, May 12, 2017

### **Spring Luncheon**

The Villages  
President Mary Papazian

University News and Academic Senate Report**. . . and Spartan Bookstore reclaims old quarters**

(Continued from Page 1)

Smith/Carlos statues.

Papazian has also made organizational changes. The former Chief of Staff was reassigned, allowing the president to bring in from Southern Connecticut State University the person who was her Chief of Staff there. Also, in order to improve cutting-edge technology, Papazian has created a new cabinet-level Vice President for Information Technology to be the Chief

Information Officer. This person will report directly to the president and oversee campus-wide strategy regarding information technology. This suggests that so far SJSU has been behind in this essential field. Yet another change, perhaps more symbolic than practical, is that Provost Feinstein was promoted to the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. This means Andy Feinstein will have no additional duties, but a

more impressive title which makes clear that he is the immediate deputy under the president—an important change from the previous president.

The Academic Senate passed a new policy regarding student evaluation forms, the Student Opinion of Teaching Effectiveness (SOTE) and Student Opinion of Laboratory Teaching Effectiveness (SOLATE). The new policy was developed by the Student Evaluation Review Board (SERB) after a two-year, campus-wide discussion. It incorporates questions thought to be more decisive and less judgmental than the previous ones. Most important, the change in the SOLATE policy will allow students for the first time to submit essay responses to laboratory situations. The Senate also passed an amendment to the Senate's constitution to eliminate from Senate membership the Vice President for Advancement and to substitute the Diversity Officer in his/her place. To take effect, the entire campus community must give approval, and an election will take place in the spring semester.

To end on a happy note, the Spartan Book Store is finally back in its old quarters in the Student Union East section, while the corner office on the West side has been vacated. No one has indicated what or who will occupy that space. And Campus Village 2, which was supposed to be completed at the beginning of the fall semester, opened a couple weeks ago and students were delighted to move in immediately. We learned that the eighth and ninth levels, a recreation area for the new Village, is so desirable that students refer to their new home as "The Hotel."

**SJSU ERFA Officers, 2016-17**

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**Vice Pres.** -- Ji-Mei Chang

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Bill McCraw

Carmen Sigler

**Academic Senate** -- Peter Buzanski

**Past President** -- Jo Bell Whitlatch

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**Membership** Wayne Savage

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Jill Cody

**Activities** Dolores Escobar-Hamilton

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Bob Wilson

Elba Maldonado-Colon

Joan Merdinger

Adnan Daoud

**CSU ERFA State Council Delegate-at-Large**--David Elliott

**Webmaster**--Carol Christensen

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**Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at [www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty](http://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty)**

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

## *In Memoriam*

• **Duilio Peruzzi** (Geography, '93) passed away peacefully on September 1, 2016, at the age of 90. Duilio was born of Italian immigrant parents in Pennsylvania in 1926, but in 1931 the family returned to Cortona, Italy, when the Depression disrupted his father's business. They intended to return when the U.S. economy recovered, but were trapped by WW II and were unable to come back until 1946. When he and his family returned to the U.S., he attended Wayne State Univ., where he took his BA (1954) and MA (1956), and completed his Ph.D. at the Univ. of Michigan in 1963. He taught Geography at UCLA before coming to SJSU in 1965. He was an avid cartographer who got his first detailed topographical map from an English captain in the final stages of the war when Duilio helped him scout out the German army's retreat from Cortona. Years later, he donated that map to the city as an historical artifact. While teaching at SJSU he worked as a Research Geographer for the USGS and at NASA-Ames. He wrote entries for three different Atlases, contributed articles to various journals and provided some 100 hand-drawn maps and graphs for books, journals and government reports. He was a well-liked professor whose charm and enthusiastic storytelling endeared him to students. He was a Resident Director of the CSU International Program in the '70s and '80s, supervising students on study-abroad semesters in Florence, Italy. He then helped forge an economic and cultural association between the Province of Florence and Santa Clara County, and became President of the Sister County Commission. Duilio was married to his wife, Charlene, for nine years and they

had two sons, Guido and Nico. For years he lived in San Jose's east foothills which reminded him of Tuscany. He made wine from grapes in his own vineyard, set a long table on the patio to entertain friends with slow-cooked Italian meals and acted as tour guide for family and friends on frequent trips to Italy. Something of a Renaissance man, Duilio was a scholar, a chef, gardener, photographer, opera-lover, do-it-yourselfer, raconteur and bon vivant.

• **Gus Lease** (Music, '93) passed away on September 4, 2016 at the age of 94. He taught music at the university level for a total of 71 years, 66 of which were at SJSU, perhaps setting a SJSU record. He was still teaching at the age of 93 in the Spring of this year. Handsome and distinguished looking, Gus had a commanding presence and dominated any room he entered. He would sing "Hail, Spartans, Hail" at the drop of a hat and would burst into song at the slightest opportunity. Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Gus attended local schools and went on to Morningside College where he took his BA in Music, then to the Univ. of Colorado for his MA, and finally his Ed.D at the Univ. of South Dakota. He taught four years at the Univ. of Oklahoma before settling down at SJSU in 1950. He taught courses in Voice and Choral Singing and was Chair of the Music Department from 1982-89. In addition, he had an extensive off-campus career as a member of the San Francisco Opera Company, a soloist with various symphonies, and created the "Gus Lease Show," with which he toured all over the western states, Asia and Europe for 17 years, entertaining U.S. troops at military bases. He was also

active in numerous community and academic organizations. He was a 50-year member of the Downtown San Jose Kiwanis Club and held various positions in the CFA, CTA, NEA, CSEA, CSUEU and CSR. And, of course, he sang for all of them on many occasions. He said, "I have enjoyed teaching and singing music all these years—it's been fun, not work." Gus leaves behind his beloved wife of 56 years, Lois, his two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and more than three generations of students who can never forget him.

• **Gordon Greb** (Journalism, '90) passed away in September, 2016, at age 95. Born in Irvington, CA, Gordon, as a boy, was curious about everything and eager to make his mark in the world. In 1934, he became a child actor in a radio serial called "Rusty, the Boy Aviator" (KTAB), but his real ambition was to become a cartoonist for Walt Disney and he began by creating the "Katz Meow" and while still a boy, sold his art and fiction to Oakland newspapers. After a hitch with the US Army in WW II, he took a BA degree in Journalism from UC Berkeley (1947), followed by an MA at the Univ. of Minnesota (1949). His MA thesis, "Freedom of the Movies," helped strike down movie censorship when it was cited in a case before the Supreme Court (*Burstyn v. Wilson*, 1952). He began work on his doctorate at Stanford where he met and married his wife, Darlene, but after three years of Ph.D. studies, his GI Bill ran out and with a baby on the way, he left to take a job as News Director at KSJO in San Jose (1954). He never completed his doctorate, but two years later was hired by Dwight Bentele to

(Continued on page 6)



## Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

# Edelweiss

**By Lonna Smith**

(Secondary Educ./LLD)

"Listen to this!" Ronna began. "President Johnson will be in town today, and there's going to be a rally at the Civic Auditorium later this afternoon. They're looking for high school girls to fill up the audience and cheer. All we have to do is show up in a dark skirt and a white blouse. We'll get a hat and a sash, and they're going to call us 'Johnson Girls.' Won't that be neat?"

The year was 1964, and with me only 17 and far from voting age, the election held relatively little interest. "Hmm. I don't know. How'll we get there? And I'm not wearing a white blouse. Besides, my mother probably won't . . ."

"My brother will pick us up after school, and he'll stay with us the whole time," Ronna interrupted. "My mom made him promise."

"But what about the dark skirt and white shirt?"

"Lonna! Look at yourself! You're wearing a black skirt, and you can wear the shirt from your band uniform in your locker!"

"Well, I guess . . ."

Ronna interrupted again. "And did I tell you that Theo Bikel's going to be at the rally? Maybe we'll see him!"

Theo Bikel? Suddenly I was interested! My mom had told me that Theo Bikel was an activist and folk singer, but to me, he was Captain Georg Von Trapp, my daily companion as I sang along with our well-worn Broadway-cast recording of "The Sound of Music." I loved Captain Von Trapp's rich baritone voice and practically swooned every time he sang. If he was going to be at the Johnson rally, I was going to be a

Johnson Girl!

"Let me call my mom," I yelled over my shoulder as I dashed to a payphone. After assurances that I wouldn't let big brother Joel out of sight, mom acceded, and now seeing Theo Bikel was only a hours away!

Those hours went mighty slowly, but at last they were over. I raced to my locker, grabbed my dingy-but-still-could-pass-for-white band shirt, and slipped into the nearest girls' bathroom to change. Then gathering my books, I dashed off to meet Ronna and Joel. We made the quick trip to the Civic Auditorium where Ronna and I were given our sashes and hats. We were, officially, Johnson Girls!

There must have been a gazillion people all cheering for the President. When he appeared on stage, I was awestruck. Seeing a sitting President with my own two eyes was beyond exciting.

The speeches started, but I wasn't listening. Instead, my attention turned towards finding the real reason I was there: Theo Bikel. It didn't take long because, as luck would have it, he was only a few yards in front of me, right below the edge of the huge stage. I approached him with the ever-responsible Joel right behind. Joel grabbed my arm and said, "I have my camera, so ask him if I can take a picture of the two of you."

Theo Bikel had put on more than a few pounds from his Broadway days, but he was still Captain Von Trapp to me, and I approached him with pounding heart. Could we have our picture taken together? Yes, and Joel snapped the photo before Von Trapp . . . I mean Bikel . . . could change his mind.

I sat there, desperately thinking

of what I could say. Theo Bikel was going to be performing that afternoon, so I got up my nerve and asked him what he was going to sing.

He answered with a surprise question. "What would you like me to sing?"

What would I like him to sing? He actually asked ME what I would like HIM to sing? Oh My God!!! What should I say? I had absolutely no idea, so I suggested the only song I could think of, the one I most loved hearing him sing.

"How about 'Edelweiss'?"

Theo Von Trapp made a face, and in a disgusted voice shut me down. "'Edelweiss'? These people here don't want to hear 'Edelweiss.' I'll sing . . ."

He mumbled something and walked away. I remained behind, the biggest fool in the auditorium.

Bickel was introduced and started singing some folksong I'd never heard before. Joel came over and guided me back to his sister. He didn't have to ask how I felt. My red cheeks said it all.

Many years later, the film version of "The Sound of Music" was broadcast on TV. Like many, I tuned in to see this iconic movie once again. This time, Christopher Plummer was the Captain. He had a sweeter voice than his Broadway predecessor, and by the time he and Julie Andrews joined together to sing "Edelweiss," I was in heaven.

It was now 1975, and I was teaching music in Cincinnati, Ohio. As luck would have it, I had 45 enthusiastic fifth graders in a chorus, and we were three weeks away from a concert. Listening to Maria and Captain Von Trapp

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# Considering the future after retirement

By Kim Uhlik

(Recreation Management)

In the ERFA newsletter we've sometimes read about our colleagues' wide range of reactions to retirement, some heartwarming, others less so. Someone once wrote in the Newsletter that "the past affects our lives and how we view the present." Though that's obviously true, it also must follow that the present affects our future. We therefore need to think and plan for it in the here and now.

As we retirees ponder our current situation, the question we should be asking is not "have we lived fulfilling lives" in the past (I hope we have), but "are we going to continue living meaningful lives" in the future. Or are we resigning ourselves to merely getting-by, or accepting an inevitable decline.

With the leisure that comes with retirement, we should take our lead from the ancient Greeks, who thought seriously about the concept of "leisure." They viewed life as a constant quest to achieve

growth and balance at every stage of human development. For them the balance consisted of six aspects of human activity: the physical, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and occupational. Imagine a pie divided into six slices, with complete balance represented when all six slices are of equal size.

For many of us at SJSU, the occupational aspect—teaching, scholarship, and service—has long dominated our choices, perhaps crowding the other "pie slices." Then when we retire, a large slice goes missing, creating a notable imbalance in the present that can impact the future. Much of our life is already receding into the past; indeed, the present lasts but a moment. So, what changes in our behaviors and attitudes will we choose to make in this short

present to positively impact our long future?

The answer: while retirement may bring closure to our former occupation, it can also provide an opportunity to restore the other five aspects to their proper balance. In place of our long dominant "occupation" we can choose another—an avocation to replace our vocation. And if our physical or intellectual abilities become challenged, we can be resourceful enough to draw on the other aspects for support—for example, the social aspect, such as maintaining ties through organizations like ERFA, among others—to restore the balance needed to create a meaningful future.

So choose well, colleagues. As befits true students of leisure, you can have your "pie" and eat it, too!

## Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members...

## Edelweiss

(Continued from page 4)

sing "Edelweiss," I thought how nice it would be for my fifth grade chorus to perform it. I jotted down the harmony, and the next day taught the song to my choristers. Our pianist improvised an accompaniment, and the song was a big hit. The innocence of those young voices matched the simplicity of Rogers' and Hammerstein's words and music. It was the most beautiful rendition I ever heard. Theo Bikel's didn't even come close.



dreamstime.com

## CalPERS

### New Pharmaceutical Benefit Manager

By Joan Merdinger (CSU-ERFA Representative)

On January 1, 2017, OptumRx will become the new CalPERS' Pharmacy Benefit Manager for all health plans. OptumRx replaces CVS/Caremark in administering prescription drug benefits. CalPERS notes in its FAQ that "Blue Shield Access+, Kaiser Permanente, and UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage PPO health plans are not affected.

For more information see the CalPERS—OptumRx Transition FAQ document posted on the CalPERS website at: <https://goo.gl/3QJZqD>

Those affected CalPERS members should have received a letter in September 2016, about the changes beginning on January 1, 2017. By late November 2016, OptumRx will have sent a Welcome package, and in the second week of December 2016, ID cards will be mailed. If you have questions about the transition, please contact OptumRx at 1-855-505-8106.

## In Memoriam

(Continued from Page 3)

build the state's first accredited radio-television degree program in journalism at SJSU. In 1958, using his skills as a reporter, Gordon uncovered the story of radio inventor Charles Herrold, who began the first radio broadcasting station in the nation in San Jose in 1909. SJSU professor Mike Adams used much of Gordon's research for his 1995 PBS documentary, "Broadcasting's Forgotten Father." Over the years, Gordon published articles too numerous to mention about broadcasting, was a syndicated daily columnist for the Mercury News and the Seattle Times and worked with eight different radio stations in the Bay Area, several of which were affiliated with ABC, CBS and NBC. He was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame in 2011. After thirty years teaching at SJSU, he retired to two homes—one in Chico and the other in Half Moon Bay. He wrote, "Sitting in my easy chair, being informed by radio, TV, the press, and from my former students, it's grand to keep up with what's going on in the world. . . . I'm honored to have taught at SJSU, the state's oldest institution of higher learning and to have seen it grow into a great university."

• **Donald Sinn** (Recreation & Leisure Studies, '84) passed away on October 2, 2016 at the age of 96. A man of many interests and talents, Don was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and attended Kent State Univ., where he took a BS degree in 1942. He then served as a Counter Intelligence officer in the US Army Air Force in the South Pacific, where he was stationed with the Marines on Okinawa. He came back to Ohio to take his M.Ed. degree

from Springfield College in 1947, before returning to serve 17 months more in Korea, retiring as Captain from the US Army Military Intelligence service. He then began working professionally as Director, Superintendent, or Consultant in parks and recreation programs all over the country. He finally received his Ed.D from UC Berkeley in 1965, shortly after he began teaching at SJSU in 1963. He wrote articles, pamphlets and papers on the loss of park and recreation lands, the planning and design of swimming pools, and recreational safety and risk management. Over the course of 30 years he was an advisor/consultant to over 90 law firms in ten states, and a volunteer consultant to projects on Indian Reservations, the Ivory Coast and Madagascar. After retiring, he organized a musical group (Troubadours) to entertain at nursing and convalescent homes and took time to indulge in numerous hobbies: painting, music (guitar, banjo and harmonica), photography, woodworking, camping and writing. It was then he decided to give up his 22 year stint as a wrestling official. Don is survived by his second wife, Kay, his two sisters, a son and daughter, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and his special dog, "Missy."

• **Thomas G. Balgooyen** (Biological Sciences, '11) died suddenly on October 29, 2016 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, while on a trip. Tom was born July 5, 1943, in Grand Haven, Michigan to Dr. Theodore and Marie Balgooyen. He graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1961, received a M.A. in Biological Science at SJSU in 1968 and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of California,

Berkeley in 1972. Tom returned to San Jose State as a professor in 1975, from where he retired in 2011. He was a passionate sailor, hunter and fisherman. His love for science, the outdoors and world travel, his admiration for the work of Charles Darwin and his interest in foreign cultures—all influenced his life to a large extent. Tom was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Lucie Merkle-Balgooyen, his son, Brandt and sisters Kimberly Barceloux and Marnissa Balgooyen. A private memorial service will be held at a later point in time.

November

month  
of long shadows

at four p.m.  
mine's oblique  
and dark

not yet rain  
trees not yet bare

garden?  
a magnificent  
ruin  
some summer  
roses burning  
above the leaf-litter  
of yesterday's  
storm

house quiet, still

I watch the twilight  
settle in  
giddy with  
the exuberance  
of introversion

--Nils Petersen



# Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members.  
Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at [geebernard@comcast.net](mailto:geebernard@comcast.net) or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

• **Marjorie Fitting Gifford** (Math/Computer Sci/Education, '92) writes that she is "slowing down a bit." After 12 years, she has retired as an outdoor docent for public gardens in Hawaii, but is now Treasurer for the Rotary club of Hanalei Bay. She is still a Tax Aide volunteer for AARP while running her own tax preparation business. She just built a smaller, three-bedroom home and is now trying to sell her bigger one. Meanwhile, she's still traveling: "Australia this year, New Zealand next and maybe San Jose this fall." It's good she's slowing down a bit.

• **William Tidwell** (Biology, '89). Bill's wife, Louise, writes that he has been hospitalized since late 2014. "He sees his family regularly and is fortunate to have retained his long-term memory of friends, family and events. He still fondly remembers his friends and colleagues from SJSU."

• **J. Benton White** (Religious Studies, '92) and his wife, Mary Lou, are still active and continue traveling a bit. "Life is good," he writes.

• **J. Michael Sproule** (Communication Studies, '01) is "still plugging along with research in rhetoric and propaganda" and recently published an article on "Propaganda" in the *International Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. He says "the constant pruning of print materials in the King Library has so far not impacted my work too much. But I still think paper is best—and has been since 900 AD."

• **Susan Murphy** (Nursing, '01) and her husband, Michael, are constantly traveling. In August of this year, they visited an archeological dig site on the Orkney Islands before moving on to a nine-day Road Scholar

program called *Independent London: From 43 BC to the Present*. In October they took part in a choir tour to Russia with the group Slavyanka, singing at various venues.

• **Paul Mico**, husband of Helen Ross (Health Science, '90), asks if he is allowed to continue as a member of SJSU-ERFA after Helen passed away last year. The answer, of course, is yes. All spouses and partners of deceased members are given a free, one-year "continuing membership" and are encouraged to continue afterwards as "Associate Members" by simply paying the annual dues. We want our ERFA community to remain intact as long as possible.

• **Susan Meyers** (Dean, Education, '09) spent three weeks in Italy in September. Meanwhile, she has initiated the Interfaith Community of South County, a group of 16 Religious/Cultural organizations committed to creating compassionate communities through social service and educational programs. They are currently sponsoring a series entitled, "The Faith of Our Neighbors," a program designed "to promote understanding and appreciation for our diverse community."

• **Lois Rew** (English, '03) and her husband Bob have moved from San Jose to Colorado Springs to be near family. "From our living room window, we have an unobstructed view of Pike's Peak. Impressive."

• **Jill Cody** (Recreation Management, '06) has received great reviews on her recent book, *America Abandoned: The Secret Velvet Coup That Cost Us Our Democracy* (Amazon).

In one review, our colleague, John Pollock, compares it to Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and Elizabeth Warren's *Fighting Chance* for its passionate voice and in-depth research. He says that "it's as hard to put down, as it is, at times, painful to read, but hers is not so much a lament of despair as it is a compelling and finally, optimistic call to action."

• **Kim S. Uhlik** (Recreation and Leisure Studies, '11) is exhibiting his photo show, "s/he who looks down...", from January 03 to February 28, in the SJSU MLK Library second floor gallery. The photos depict curious artifacts he has encountered while walking in San José and various other cities in the US and Europe.

• **Calvin Stevens** (Geology, '98) just published a book called *The Swan of Tuonela: A Life in the California Desert*. It's essentially the autobiography of a man born and raised in the severe desert environment of eastern California. He's a fictional character whose experiences are based in part on actual events. The people who inhabit this rarefied culture exhibit all the traditional characteristics of American society: individualism, ambition and resourcefulness. It's available on Amazon.com, under the author's name: Cal Stevens.

## ERFA Film Group: Join Us?

By **Marian Yoder** (Nursing, '08)

If you enjoy fascinating films and stimulating conversation, consider joining the ERFA Film Group. It meets at local theaters downtown or in the Pruneyard and then continues discussions in adjacent coffee shops. For further information, contact Marian Yoder at [yoderdm@garlic.com](mailto:yoderdm@garlic.com) or 408-842-6292.



Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
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San Jose, CA 95192-0210

## Return Service Requested

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SJSU ERFA  
News

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### Tax deductible! ***ERFA Faculty Award donations***

**By Joan Merdinger**  
(Past President, SJSU-ERFA)

As we approach the holiday season and the end of 2016, your ERFA Board is making its one appeal of the year to request that you consider a donation to the ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award fund. This fund, created by the Board in 2014, is administered by the SJSU Tower Foundation, which is a 501C(3) organization. As a result, all donations to the fund are tax deductible.

On behalf of our membership, the Board has now provided awards of \$2500 each for four faculty members, two in 2014-2015 and two in 2015-2016. The Board is currently seeking funding

for the awards planned for 2016-2017. These awards support current faculty—tenured, tenure-track and long-term lecturers—in their research and creative activities. In addition to the Tower Foundation, the Center for Faculty Development (CFD) also attends to the administrative duties of notifying all applicants.

The award works as follows: a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) is sent out to the campus, with a required submission date. An examining committee of Board members makes recommendations about the awardees to the Board for final approval.

At our Spring Business luncheon

in both 2015 and 2016, we invited the awardees to make a short presentation to our members informing us about their work with the award support. It has been heartwarming to hear the gratitude of our younger colleagues for this important and most welcome opportunity to further their research and creative work.

Please keep the momentum going for this initiative by sending a check made out to "Tower Foundation" and on the Memo line include "ERFA Faculty Award." Please send your check to our Treasurer, Abdel El-Shaieb, 5023 Wilma Way, San Jose, CA 95124. Thank you for your consideration of this request.